Pike Panel Hit in Loss Of CIA Data

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The House intelligence committee, which is out of business and under investigation itself for past leaks, came under a new attack yesterday for allegedly losing 232 classified CIA documents.

In a Feb. 27 letter to Rep. Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.), who chaired the committee, Mitchell Rogovin, special counsel to CIA Director George Bush, listed six categories of documents "that are presumed missing," including top secret material on SALT, the coup in Portugal, procurement by the CIA and the agency's budgeting process.

The allegedly missing documents had, according to Central Intelligence Agency records, been turned over to the committee and cannot be located among committee files now being stored at CIA headquarters.

Pike has asked the CIA to provide him with details on when the documents were turned over to the committee and the name of the committee staff member who signed for them. In a letter to Bush last Monday, Pike wrote: "I will certainly do what I can to help you find them."

Yesterday, Pike said a quick check with his staff showed that in the case of the budget documents, some 103 were alleged by CIA to have been on a single microfilm strip that "no one has any record as having gotten."

The lost documents were discussed at the White House last week, according to a presidential aide, and copies of the Rogovin letter to Pike were sent to White House Counsel Philip W. Buchen and presidential counselor John O. Marsh Jr.

Pike said yesterday he was "suspicious" about the new charge against the committee, saying "they really are out to get me." He added that he believed some missing doucments could have been destroyed or transferred to the archives.

When the Pike committee concluded its investigation last month, all documents belonging to intelligence agencies were returned.

At the request of Bush, Pike agreed to store the committee's own files at CIA headquarters. It is from these files that the documents are missing.

According to a Feb. 25 letter to Pike from Bush, the agency "attempted to reconcile our records of documents delivered" to the committee "with the inventory of documents received for storage at CIA headquarters. . ."

At that point, according to the Bush letter, "a number of documents were unaccounted for."

The day after Bush's letter was sent, CIA counsel Rogovin spoke with Rep. Robert McClory (R-Ill.), who was the ranking Republican on Pike's committee. McClory, according to a later Rogovin letter, voiced "concern regarding the missing documents.

Pike received Rogovin's list of missing documents on March 1 and the same day sent Bush a letter asking for more specific information.

The matter rested there until news reports yesterday quoted CIA sources saying —inaccurately—the missing documents were loaned to the committee and had to be returned to CIA.

Pike said the CIA statements made him "suspicious" since the Feb. 25 Bush letter specifically noted the "the 'on loan' material . . . has been received by the CIA. . . ."